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~~CYCLIC ETHER VITAMIN D3 COMPOUNDS,~~
~~1 α (OH) 3-EPI- VITAMIN D3 COMPOUNDS~~
~~AND USES THEREOF~~

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Abstract of the Disclosure

Novel cyclic ether vitamin D3 compounds having a cyclic ether side chain are disclosed. These compounds were first identified as metabolites of 3-epi vitamin D3 produced via a tissue-specific metabolic pathway which catalyzes the formation of a cyclic ether structure. Also disclosed are 1 α (OH) 3-epi vitamin D3 compounds, which are produced via the epimerization of a 3- β -hydroxyl group of 1 α (OH) vitamin D3 precursor *in vivo*. The vitamin D3 compounds of the present invention can be used as substitutes for natural and synthetic vitamin D3 compounds.

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